

whereas, it was from the nature of things impossible that Russian rumors of Japanese attacks on Port Arthur could be true, everything that is today reported, whether north or south, in Manchuria, or the Liao-Tung Peninsula, looks like truth.

"The sequence of events leads up to the Japanese having by about now been able to land and convey to their position a sufficient body of heavy artillery to enable them to attack that position.

An Advance Post.
"Apparently the Russians occupied the old walled Chinese town as a kind of flanking advanced post or outpost for their main line of works, which was drawn across the narrow neck of the peninsula. It is said that the Russians had thirty guns mounted on their works, presumably not in the town, but along the neck.

It is a little difficult to be sure whether the specific statement sent from Shanghai that Kin-Chow was captured by the Japanese refers to the town or to the pass.

Helots Captured.
"There is, however, another telegram which says expressly that the heights south of Kin-Chow were captured. As the Shanghai correspondent says the attack began by a heavy artillery bombardment of these southern heights, it may be that they were captured first or that, the guns in them having been silenced by superior Japanese artillery, it became possible for the town to be attacked and captured, and that being taken gave an approach to the main line of the works.

RUSSIAN DEFEATS REPORTED ARE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE

LONDON, May 27.—A dispatch to the "Telegraph" from Nanchang says that a Chinese army captain reports that Japanese scouts discovered the enemy in strength at Tientien, fifty kilometers northwest of Feng-wang-cheng, on May 21.

When their exact position was ascertained the Japanese sent a flying column from Suoyen, which made a strong demonstration on the enemy's front, and at daylight on May 22 engaged the Russians with artillery from the south.

Russian Flank Turned.

Meanwhile the main force, accompanied with mountain guns, advanced westward from the Feng-wang-cheng road, turning the Russians left flank and enfilading their trenches.

The Russians retreated hastily to the Tatuming Pass, losing over a thousand killed, wounded and captured. The Japanese losses were slight.

Japanese Occupy Tientien.

The division which outflanked the Russians were the troops, who, according to the St. Petersburg reports, retired from Feng-wang-cheng, their retirement being part of the Japanese tactics in Sunday's battle. The Japanese now occupy the Tientien line.

The Shanghai correspondent of the "Chronicle" says that he hears that 15,000 Russians were surprised in the Tatuming Pass by 30,000 Japanese. The Russian casualties were 4,000 and more than a thousand surrendered.

Tokyo Hears of Small Fights.

TOKYO, May 27.—The "Jiji" publishes a dispatch from Feng-wang-cheng stating that on May 24, 1,000 Cossacks appeared on the highway south of Shih-tien-chang.

A company of Japanese infantry were sent against them and fired upon them, forcing them to retreat. There were 10 Japanese casualties. In a skirmish at Wangkaiku, a Cossack lieutenant was killed.

Russians Retire in Haste.

General Kuroki, commander of the First Japanese Army, reports that after the engagement at Topu the Russian cavalry took up a position at Patnoski yesterday. A detachment of Japanese infantry and cavalry from Tientien attacked them, driving them in confusion to Tienfossu (7). Natives report that three were killed and eighteen wounded.

A dispatch to the "Jiji Shimpo" from Feng-wang-cheng reports an action that was apparently the same as that reported by General Kuroki. It locates the scene midway between Feng-wang-cheng and Liao-Yang.

Russians Active at Suoyen.

CHICAGO, May 27.—The "Daily News" last night published the following dispatch from its correspondent at Feng-wang-cheng, Manchuria:

"Increased activity characterizes all the movements of the Russians in the neighborhood of Suoyen. Small parties appear daily moving in the direction of Takuscher, though there is no evidence of a big movement.

"All is quiet seven miles to the north of Feng-wang-cheng on the road to Liao-Yang. A large force of Japanese cavalry suddenly appeared fifteen miles to the northeast of Feng-wang-cheng, but being promptly met by a strong detachment of Japanese infantry, retired in some haste."

Landing at Pitsewo.

"The Japanese landing continues near Pitsewo and farther south. The troops landing are moving south toward Kin-chow, with covering detachments thrown out to the west. Chinese report a battle at Kin-chow on May 18, the Japanese losing 700 and the Russians fewer."

General Sakharoff, referring to the Feng-wang-cheng district, reports that the Japanese strength consists of 30,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry and thirty-six field guns. General Kuropatkin, in his last report, stated that there were 40,000 Japanese concentrated at Feng-wang-cheng and that four line regiments were at Pitsewo.

Quiet on the Ai River.

General Sakharoff adds that the Japanese advance guard has now reached thirty kilometers north of the Ai River. Their front is turned toward Salmaite and Kuantien. They are not making other movements north of the Ai River.

It is reported that many Japanese horses are exhausted.

A Japanese landing at Takushan began five days ago. It is reported that 50,000, principally infantry, landed, but this is not sufficiently verified. Those who landed are marching toward Suoyen and also in the direction of Port Arthur, toward Singtze.

Cossacks Encounter Japanese.

An encounter between a Japanese detachment and a sotnia of Cossacks on the night of May 20-21 at Shikhouchintse caused consternation among the Japanese, who fired wildly at the Cossacks, and also, owing to the darkness, at their own men.

Russian reconnoiterers got behind the Japanese army near Tensan-chutse on May 21. They found a detachment of 300 on the main road from Sakhodza to Liao Yang. Heavy transport wagons were passing in the direction of Suoyen.

Scouts Return on Foot.

The scouts watched for sixteen hours and saw fully 15,000 Korean and Chinese coolies pass with 200 carts. The Japanese finally discovered and attacked the scouts, all of whose horses were killed, and they were obliged to return on foot.

The military medical inspector reports that the sanitary condition of the Manchurian army is in every respect excellent. There were twenty-seven cases of dysentery and typhus fever on May 25. There was no plague. The number of cases of illness is generally insignificant, not exceeding the normal figures of ordinary times. This is excluding Port Arthur.

No Steamers Running.

Regular steamship service here has been suspended since the sinking of Japanese steamers on this coast. Schooners arriving report no warships seen along the coast.

It is rumored from the Tumen district that the Russians are seizing cattle and driving them across the border toward Vladivostok, where supplies are greatly needed.

The Korean general, Kim, has gone north to replace the former commandant of Ham-Hueng.

PENNSYLVANIAN ENDS HIS LIFE IN A HOTEL

READING, Pa., May 27.—A man who registered as E. C. Jones, of Harrisburg, committed suicide in his room at the Hotel Allen, Allentown, at about 3 o'clock this morning by shooting himself through the head with a revolver.

The man was assigned to his room shortly after midnight. He was apparently about twenty-five years old.

At Frederick, Antietam (Keedysville), Hagerstown, Harpers Ferry, and Winchester, and return, via B. & O. R. R., leaving Washington 8:30 a. m., Sunday, May 28. Splendid opportunity to visit historic grounds.

line of the works. At present all this can only be vague conjecture.

A Preliminary Incident.

"In any case it must be remembered that Kin-Chow is quite fifty miles from Port Arthur, so that its capture is only a preliminary incident of the coming siege, though a very important one.

"The importance to the Japanese of Kin-Chow is that it gives them access to Dalny by land and will thereby enable the army to co-operate with and assist the fleet in clearing the inner harbor and roadstead of mines laid by the Russians.

Will Aid the Besiegers.

"When that work has been successfully accomplished the possession of Dalny will be invaluable for the siege of Port Arthur, because it will shorten by more than two-thirds the distance over which heavy artillery and ammunition has now to be dragged by hand, as have also the engineer tools and food supplies."

Editorially the "Daily Telegraph" says: "By the storming of Kin-Chow yesterday the Japanese have swept the garrison of Port Arthur out of its first line of defense and have commenced the work of sapping, point by point, into the heart of the citadel.

"We have no details of the character of the fighting or of the losses upon either side, but we know enough of the preparations made for resistance and of the value of the position to justify the belief that the brilliant feat of arms has resulted in one of the most significant successes that have yet attended the operations of the Japanese on land."

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COAL ROADS MAY SUBMIT EVIDENCE

Interstate Commerce Commission to Decide.

TWO WITNESSES TESTIFY

Vice President Richardson, of Erie Railway, Takes Stand—Counsel Asks for Hearing.

NEW YORK, May 27.—Thomas F. Richardson, sales agent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, and S. A. Richardson, vice president of the Erie Railway, were today before the Interstate Commerce Commission, which is trying to find out if there is a coal combine.

Mr. Richardson testified that the fixing of the prices to be asked for coal was dependent upon the condition of the market, and the amount of protection. If coal kept piling up, the price would naturally fall off, and the way to maintain prices would be to suspend or restrict production.

He said that it was not always possible to know what other companies would charge. The Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, and the Lehigh Valley did not issue circulars regularly. He found out what prices were to be charged by inquiry.

No Talk Regarding Circular.

Mr. Sayre was the representative of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, and Mr. Levine of the Lehigh Valley. He had in consultation with either Mr. Sayre or Levine, prior to the issuing of the April charter circular.

To Commissioner Prouty, Richardson said the operation of coal mining companies by the railroads had been one of gradual growth. He could not say when the system of purchase contracts first came into vogue.

Philadelphia was the favorite market for the Reading road. They also sent large quantities to Maine and to the West. Mr. Richardson said that the Erie Railway was the favorite market for the Reading road. They also sent large quantities to Maine and to the West.

Vice President Richardson Called.

Vice President Richardson was called. He said the Erie held a controlling interest in the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad, the Hillside Coal and Iron Company, the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and other coal mining companies in the Lackawanna district.

The New York, Susquehanna and Western Coal Company did not operate mines. Its business was chiefly the collection of coal from leasehold properties.

Mr. Shearn figured out that after paying the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company the 65 per cent of price at tide water, the cost of transportation to Carbondale or Honesdale, the cost of sale, and the wastage, the Hillside Coal Company would have left only \$1.16 a ton from Carbondale and \$1.04 a ton from Honesdale to meet the cost of freight, \$1.60, from those points to tide water.

Deduction Unfair.

Counsel for the Erie road contended that this deduction was unfair. In that the coal was loaded on the Erie cars at the mines and a provisional rate was charged for the transportation from the gathering points.

Mr. Brownell, counsel for the Erie, asked the commission if an opportunity would be accorded for the railroad company to introduce evidence. If such a chance was not given he wished to cross-examine Mr. Richardson.

Chairman Knapp, after consultation with the other members of the commission, said that every facility would be given the railroad to put in evidence.

PEDAGOGY GRADUATES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

Sixteen young women graduates from the teachers' department of Howard University received diplomas from the hand of the Rev. John Gordon, D. D., president of the institution. The commencement exercises were held in Rankin Memorial Chapel, and were attended by a large number of the friends of the university and the relatives of the members of the graduating class.

The exercises were begun with prayer by the Rev. W. V. Tunnell. The address to the graduates was made by Rabbi Abram Simon, who was introduced by Judge Stanton J. Peelle. He spoke briefly of the progress made by the negro race.

Other numbers on the program were an essay, "The Kindergarten and the Ideal Citizen," by Julia D. Somerville; solo, by Mary A. Murray; essay, "The Mission of the Educated Woman," by Anna R. Bowyer; "Millie's Dream Club," oration, "Factors in Race Development," by M. M. Morton. The benediction was by Bishop B. T. Tanner, LL. D.

The graduates and their courses were: In kindergarten theory and practice—Arabella Beasons, Ida Fillmore, and Rebecca Guy, of the District of Columbia; Nora Hyman, of North Carolina; Julia D. Somerville, of the District of Columbia; M. Erma Weedon, of Massachusetts.

In pedagogy—Alice Pearl Barlow, of the District of Columbia; Anna R. Bowyer and Osceola Mary Burt, of Pennsylvania; Eva E. Ewing, of the District of Columbia; Lela Corinne Ewing and Mary A. Hall, of Texas; Alice E. Hatchett, of Virginia; Ida P. Madden, of the District of Columbia; Priscilla Tyler, of Texas; Etelka H. Valette, of Rhode Island.

A certificate for special post-graduate work in pedagogy, was awarded Mary Curtis, of New York. The degree of Ph. D. was conferred on Matthew M. Morton, of the District of Columbia.

WILL GO TO KIEL.

SOUTHAMPTON, May 27.—Mrs. Ogden Goelt and party arrived today aboard the yacht Nahma from a trip through the Mediterranean. The party will proceed to Kiel to attend the regatta.

LANGERMAN GOES TO THE AID OF PERDICARIS

James W. S. Langerman, former United States consul to Tangier, and special commissioner of the Sultan of Morocco to the St. Louis Exposition, sailed yesterday for Gibraltar for Tangier, where he hopes to effect the release of Ion Perdicaris and Cromwell Varley, the two foreigners who are held for ransom by bandits.

MANY MEN MANY MINDS

but physicians are all agreed about Grape-Nuts delicious Brain food

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NEW SCHEDULE OF PERSONAL TAXES

Assistant Assessors Announce Changes.

EXEMPTIONS ANNULLED

Heirlooms Will Be Taxed, and Various Corporations Assessed on New Basis.

The Board of Assistant Assessors of the District has prepared its schedule of the articles of personal estate that will be taxable for the ensuing fiscal year. The announcement is also made that, unless the taxpayers of the District call at the District Building and make out these schedules, showing the value of their belongings, they will be taxed 20 per cent additional for their negligence.

The schedules must be made and sworn to on or before August 1, 1904. The form for the ensuing year differs in several important particulars from the one that has prevailed during the past year.

"Heirlooms" No Longer Exempt.

This year the ladies will be interested to learn that heirlooms and articles of personal adornment will be subject to taxation. This was decided on because the assessors found that the taxpayers were too prone to make the term "heirloom" expansive. In some cases, even, people claimed that horses and carriages had inherited heirlooms.

Another change is that this year, all building associations in the District will have to pay a 2 per cent tax on their gross earnings in the United States. Last year they paid 4 per cent on their gross earnings in the District.

A specially important feature, which is new, is the following: Business companies, which by reason of or in addition to incorporation receive no special franchise or privilege, shall be assessed and taxed as individuals, and they shall set forth in the several items of the schedule the character and value of their property as though they were individuals.

Taxes on Title Companies.

Another innovation in the law reads: "Companies who furnish abstracts of title to real estate, or who insure real estate titles, shall make affidavit of the amount of their gross receipts in the District of Columbia for the year ended June 30, 1904, and they must pay 15 per cent tax.

The definition of a fair cash value is given as follows, from Cooley on taxation: "When a statute requires the 'fair cash value' of property on a certain day to be ascertained, it refers to the actual judgment of the public as expressed in the price which some one will pay. It means the highest price a normal purchaser, not under peculiar compulsion, will pay at that time to get that thing."

Decoration Day, River View.

The regular excursion season to River View, the pretty and popular excursion resort near Port Washington, will open with the trips of the steamer Samuel J. Pentz, Monday, May 29, and Tuesday, May 30, and daily to the resort from now until the middle of September. Many persons will find it a most enjoyable day holiday to spend the day at this pretty resort, enjoying the little river, the "Thumb" railway, the club, the open air canal, and all the many other attractions of the resort will be ready to give pleasure, and a new Ferris wheel, sixty feet high, is now being installed, and is to be ready for service by Monday. There will also be music and dancing in the big pavilion from the arrival of the first boat in the morning until the last boat leaves at night. Band concerts on the steamer will also be a feature of the day. The steamer leaves her wharf here at 10 a. m., 2:15 and 6:45 p. m.

DEATH RECORD.

Comery, Jobe P. L., 15, Potomac River, Falls Park.
Duckett, 1 day, infant of Edw. and Mary, 130 O St. S. W.
Johnson, Mari, 1, 111 1/2 St. Canal.
Hunt, Peter, 34, Government Hospital Insane, Pollard, Beatrice, 2, 1130 10th St. N. W.
Perry, Thomas, 20, 2233 9th St. N. W.
Patterson, 2 days, infant of Thos. and Martha, Columbia Hospital.
Robards, Maria, 55, Garfield Hospital.
Steen, Aaron, 34, Government Hospital Insane.
Wulfsberg, Frederick, 70, Cent. Union Mission.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE FIRST annual meeting of the stockholders of the Ocean Thimble Cement Brick Machinery Company will be held in its offices in the Bond Building, Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, May 27, at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a board of directors or trustees. TH. J. PARKER, Secretary.

CHILLS Elixir BABEK.

and Fever, and Malaria in all its forms, and all stages of the disease, quickly and permanently cured by CHILLS Elixir BABEK.

BUSES FOR DECORATION DAY.

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